

## DR. JOHN WILLIAM AIRD



Dr. John W. Aird was born Sept. 26, 1863 in Heber, Utah (Wasatch County). His parents were William and Elizabeth McLean Aird. They left Scotland March 18, 1853, and arrived in America May 10, 1853. It was through their conversion to the Mormon Church, that they decided to leave the old country where they were born and raised.

Later on, they felt that the Church had departed from its teachings as they had understood it in Scotland, and, as Dr. Aird expressed it, they couldn't bear to be hypocrites, they couldn't accept or practice polygamy.

Dr. Aird's father was a weaver of cloth by trade. He not only wove the cloth that made clothes for his family, but for many who lived in Heber at that time. The wool was furnished by John M. Murdoch, who cared for the community's sheep. As a child, Dr. Aird with his brothers and sisters hand-carded and spun the wool that made the yarn.

He was one of six children who were: William Thompson, Elizabeth and Sterart (twins), Janet Brown; Henry McLean; John William; and Grace Mary.

Dr. Aird spent his early schoolhood days in Heber. Then he later attended the University of Deseret, now known as the University of Utah. He taught school in Heber for five years. His greatest desire was to study medicine. His financial circumstances would not have enabled him to finance his medical education, had not friends loaned him the money. They were paid back with twelve percent interest. His brother, Henry, also helped him financially, and was teaching school in Heber at that time.

He wrote an article under the heading of "The Most Unforgettable Character I Have Ever Met." In it he pays the highest com-

pliments to Dr. John R. Parks, who was his teacher at the university.

He tells of how Dr. Parks inspired and stimulated him and contributes most of his success to him. He tells of how his teacher brought him out of the inferiority complex he had acquired during his earlier school days. They became life-long friends, and in his letters to other friends, passes on some of Dr. Park's philosophy such as having complete concentration in whatever one does; choosing for your life's work that which you think you are most adapted for, and that which you think will afford you the greatest satisfaction and pleasure, keeping the dollar sign well in the background. As he says "The dollar will take care of itself if you are happy in your work."

Dr. Aird and Emily McCauslin were married June 21, 1895. (She was originally from San Francisco, California). To them were born four children. William, Florabelle, John and Robert. John and Robert also became eminent physicians.

Dr. Aird practiced medicine and surgery for eight years in Heber. He was the only physician there for awhile; and there were times when he performed operations with the help of only one good practical nurse, and a friend who he had trained to give short anesthetics in emergency cases. He tells of drafting a neighbor to hold a coal-oil lamp for sufficient light in such cases.

He had many friends in Wasatch County who had complete faith and trust in him. He claims it was a lot through their cooperation that he was so successful in his work there.

There was the time of a bad diphtheria epidemic, and the Elisha Averett family were stricken. There were four of them in serious condition. Dr. Aird managed to obtain some anti-toxin from Denver, Colo., but found when it arrived there was only enough for two patients. He used good judgment when he divided it among the four. They all recovered very promptly. After that, as other exposed families were stricken, the doctor tells of how he kept the wires hot to both Denver and Omaha asking for the anti-toxin until the epidemic had subsided. He treated 93 cases in all, with only three deaths. He thought those three received it too late. A short time later Dr. Aird was asked by the State Medical Society to present a paper on the treatment of diphtheria with anti-toxin. It was not until about two

years later that the use of anti-toxin became general in the treatment of that dreaded disease.

He and his family moved to Provo, Utah, in 1901. He worked at the Provo General Hospital also known as the Aird Hospital and was chief surgeon for many years. He praises the other physicians, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Taylor and also the nurses whom he worked with most every day. He helped train many nurses.

He was the appointed consulting surgeon at the State Mental Hospital for many years.

His reputation as a physician and especially as a surgeon among his fellow workers can be found in the books under the titles of:

"The History of Utah Since Statehood"

"Who's Who in American Medicine."

"Who's Who Among Physicians and Surgeons."

"Who's Important in Medicine."

"The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography."

"The Biographical Encyclopaedia of the World."

Dr. Aird was not only considered a great physician and surgeon, but his many fine qualities as a man, endeared him to many dear and lasting friends among his associates, many who were patients, as well as among his fellow workers.

He lived in Provo over 40 years, and performed operations with a steady hand when he was well past 70 years of age.

After he retired, he and his wife moved to Long Beach, California, where he spent the remainder of his life. He lived to be 90. He died Oct. 15, 1953.

## HENRY McLEAN AIRD AND HIS WIFE VIOLET RYAN AIRD



Henry McLean Aird, born Sept. 18, 1860. Married Jessie Quinn June 25, 1891. She died April 10, 1892 in childbirth.

Married Violet Ryan July 15, 1893.

Henry died April 20, 1928.

Mrs. Aird is alive and well.

Henry's parents were William and Elizabeth McLean Aird, who emigrated to Utah from Scotland in 1854. In 1861 when Henry was one year old the family moved to Heber City, where he spent his childhood and youth. He attended the available schools in Heber and the University of Deseret in Salt Lake City, which later became the University of Utah. He was graduated from this institution when he was 24 years of age.

As was common in those days, the Aird family was poor in worldly goods and his education was obtained through sacrifice and hard work, as is evidenced by the fact that he traveled by foot many times to and from Salt Lake City, for the purpose of attending the university, wearing clothes tailored by his father from cloth which had been home-spun by his mother. Shoes for the family were also made by the father, who was a cobbler as well as a tailor.

Beginning with the school term following Henry's graduation in 1884, he began his teaching career in the Sleepy Hollow school and the next 20 years of his life were devoted to teaching in the schools of Heber City.

In 1904, the Airds moved from Heber City to Provo Bench, where they acquired a fruit farm. However, Henry continued in his chosen profession of teaching until his retirement in 1919. In addition to his devotion to teaching, he loved to write verse, much of which were put to music. His outstanding achievement in this field was a song which he composed in 1906 entitled "Hail To Thee Utah." For his creation of this song, he was awarded a prize of \$500 by a Salt Lake newspaper, as sponsor of a contest.

Upon Henry's retirement from teaching in 1919, the family moved to Provo, Utah, and a few years later they moved to Lynnwood, California, where they resided until Henry's death on April 20, 1928. His remains were returned to Heber City to find a final resting place.

Violet Ryan Aird was born on July 5, 1870, in Charleston, Wasatch County, Utah, to William M. and Floweretta Fraughton Ryan. She was educated in the Heber City schools and the Brigham Young Academy at Provo, which later became the Brigham Young University. Her teaching career be-